

DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

10 February 1986

NOTE FOR: D/Public Affairs

FROM: DCI

SUBJECT: Draft Letter to Bob Woodward

George:

What do you think about sending
something like this?

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'WJ Casey', written in a cursive style.

William J. Casey

Attachment

10 February 1986

Draft Letter to Bob Woodward

Dear Bob,

Over the last few weeks we have had inquiries from Bill Safire, from a reporter for a news weekly, have read that tidbit in the Washingtonian magazine, and heard whispers on the grapevine, all suggesting that we are collaborating with you in your forthcoming book on intelligence.

This calls for setting the record straight. Since we learned that you were doing a book, no one at the CIA has given you any interview or done anything but answer the phone to advise, comment or not comment on the specific story on which you phoned in.

Earlier, we did arrange an interview with the Director, two with the Deputy Director, one each with Bob Gates and Stan Sporkin to provide background for what you told us was to be an article or a series of articles in the Washington Post on intelligence in the Reagan Administration.

In addition, we provided background briefing for trips you said you were taking to the Middle East and Libya to do pieces on terrorism, and for a possible visit for possible discussions with the KGB in Moscow.

In the fall of 1983, you called on the Director on the debate book matter arising from the Presidential campaign of 1980 and had a later interview on that subject.

You agreed that all of these interviews would be off the record.

On two occasions you attended speeches the Director gave, one in New York and one in Boston. He gave you a ride back to Washington on his airplane on the explicit understanding that you would not seek to discuss intelligence matters.

You asked about the Director's experiences with General Donovan in World War II and he authorized you to look at his draft autobiographical manuscript entitled "The Clandestine War Against Hitler."

We think it important to be precise about this because we get word that you have dredged up a lot of information around town, some of which you should not have and some of which, if published, could endanger American lives and American security. We don't want anyone to think that we in any way authorized the release or publication of that information.

Finally, because we believe that you do not wish to damage our intelligence capabilities, our national security, or endanger American citizens here or abroad, we suggest that you permit us to informally review your manuscript to suggest where and how you may be able to avoid that risk. You have on occasion offered that cooperation with respect to forthcoming Washington Post stories. We appreciated that and believe it was mutually beneficial. There have been occasions where we advised you a story you called about could endanger American citizens or American relations with other countries. In at least two of those instances, publication did have that result. You remember that the killing of the American sailor in the hijacking of the TWA plane was described by the hijackers as retaliation for what your Washington Post story alleged, or implied to be, American involvement in an attack by Lebanese security forces against a terrorist headquarters in Beirut.

It seems wise to exercise special care and caution, particularly with a book which is likely to have information which is not quite accurate or which can be misconstrued and where there is no end of the day deadline. We do not propose or intend censorship. We only wish the opportunity to point out before publication inaccuracies or eventualities for which you would not want to be responsible. It would be nothing more than you have done in checking sensitive newspaper stories with us.

Sincerely,